



WASHINGTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Washington County is located in Western Maryland, bordered by Pennsylvania on the North and West Virginia to the South. It ranks ninth in size among the twenty-three counties, with 293,223 acres in land area.

Washington County is the heart of the fruit industry in Maryland. Apple and peach growers harvest over 26,000,000 pounds annually. Dairying is the principle livestock enterprise. Milk cows number 16,400 head, ranking second in the state. In addition to milk and fruit, the chief agricultural commodities are cereal grains.

A rich heritage of agricultural and historical significance adds to the attractions for tourists. Among these attractions is the Civil War site Antietam Battlefield located in the Sharpsburg area. Approximately, 350,000 visitors frequent these grounds annually. In addition, many state and private campgrounds and other recreational areas are accessible to visitors to the county.

WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	16,000	72.7	1,162,500
	1998		14,600	102.0	1,488,900
	1999		12,500	70.1	876,300
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	15,800	10.8	170,000
	1998		16,100	12.5	201,200
	1999		19,400	10.0	194,000
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	11,200	35.4	396,200
	1998		7,400	35.3	261,000
	1999		6,400	25.7	164,700
Wheat	1997	Bu.	6,500	56.3	366,000
	1998		6,300	49.5	312,000
	1999		6,100	57.7	351,800
Hay	1997	Tons.	19,300	2.5	48,000
	1998		19,900	3.9	77,300
	1999		21,000	2.9	60,000
Barley	1997	Bu.	5,100	67.4	344,000
	1998		5,200	65.6	341,000
	1999		4,700	77.0	362,100

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999

Corn	14	Barley	11
Wheat	12	Soybeans	17
Hay	3		

Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹

Cattle	2
Hogs	1
Sheep	6
Milk Production	2 ⁵

WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹	1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms	906	809	768
Average Size (acres)	152	153	164
Land in Farms (acres)	137,529	123,932	126,292

Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	42,821	41,875	41,519
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	22,284	9,889	10,575
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	1,266	1,897	1,451

Average Number of Milk Cows	1997	1998	1999
	16,500	16,700	16,400

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.	1997	1998	1999
	246,400	253,000	256,000

Value of Sales ¹	1987	1992	1997
All Products	54,091	58,341	60,604
Crops	6,432	9,451	12,797
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	47,659	48,890	47,807

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

⁵ 1999.

* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	** 00.0	28.3	0.00	2.42
February	** 00.0	30.6	** 0.00	2.55
March	** 00.0	40.7	0.00	3.08
April	** 00.0	50.4	** 0.00	3.23
May	** 00.0	60.2	** 0.00	3.69
June	** 00.0	68.5	** 0.00	3.41
July	** 00.0	73.0	** 0.00	3.67
August	** 00.0	71.6	** 0.00	3.15
September	** 00.0	64.5	** 0.00	3.18
October	** 00.0	52.8	** 0.00	3.16
November	** 00.0	43.4	** 0.00	3.00
December	** 00.0	33.3	** 0.00	2.60
Annual	** 00.0	52.1	** 00.00	37.14

** Insufficient or partial data.

Number frost free days for 1999 **

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 182 (1961-1990 Not available)

Highest temperature **

Lowest temperature **

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**Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.**